CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natural Resources Commission was held in the lower level Conference Room of City Hall, 8 N. Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Wojnarski.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: P. Hahn, M. Jendreas, D. Sivertson, and Chairperson A. Wojnarski.

Absent were Commissioners A. Debecki and E. Madden.

Also present were Park District Liaison K. Nowicki, Prospect Heights Alderman Larry Rosenthal, and resident Cathy Brady.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hahn moved, seconded by Commissioner Sievertson, to approve the September 28, 2015 Minutes, as submitted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Statement of Visitors - None

OLD BUSINESS

Slough – Hey and Associates – Commissioner Sievertson highlighted items covered in the Hey Report. Basically, they noted that management and aesthetic perception are the two most important items in maintaining the slough/lake areas. He said that the Park District and the City will need to decide what is to be done next, who will do it, and who will pay the cost.

Commissioner Sievertson noted that if the National Fish and Wildlife Grant is not awarded to the NRC, it is still important to follow through with the plan and clean up the water run-off before it gets to the slough.

Commissioner Jendreas noted that the slough is a unique body of water; it is not a pond and not a lake, and this is what a lot of the residents do not understand. It is a wetland and an area used for flood control.

Alderman Rosenthal stated that the NRC needs to let the City know what should be done next.

Prairie – Kurt Dreisilker, Head of Natural Resources at Morton Arboretum, came out to view the prairie and said that the overgrowth of clover should be herbicided, and the prairie re-seeded. Fermi Lab is donating 40 lbs. of seed for two acres. Horcher Landscaping will herbicide with a product that will mainly attack the clover, and they will mow and pick up the thatch. Re-seeding will be done in December or January.

Chairman Wojnarski said that there is $1600 left in grant money and it needs to be spent by the end of the year (according to Grant rules). A discussion followed as to how to spend the funds; seed, signage, or other. Commissioners felt that seeds were a priority right now and signage could come later.

Cathy Brady suggested putting up a small "Library Box" type sign that would hold brochures. The information provided can be changed to keep residents up to date on what is happening in the prairie. She also suggested trading labor for seeds from the Cook County Forest Preserves to keep costs down.

Chairman Wojnarski said that the seeds purchased would be augmented with seeds collected from the remnant prairie and seeds donated by the Oakton Ecology Club.

Commissioner Hahn moved, seconded by Commission Sievertson, to spend the remaining $1600 grant money on seeds. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NRC Journal – Commissioner Sievertson said that he was working on the November Journal.

Library Programs - Commissioner Sievertson said John McCabe, the Director of Resource Management from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, will give a presentation on "Fire and the Forest Preserves of Cook County", on January 26, 2015, at the Prospect Heights Library.

Update on National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant – This grant was recently applied for in the amount of $67,960, and it will be awarded between November 16 and November 30, 2015.

UW Madison Capstone Project – This is a continuation of the work that Jamie Redmond, from the University of Madison, started a few years ago. The project involves naturalizing the area to improve wildlife habitat with an interpretive walking path for residents to enjoy the creek and the natural features. Sean McMillion, a 4th year graduate student, is currently working on the project.

Resident Cathy Brady suggested the idea of building nature related children's stations on Park District property. She said there are a lot of Park District sites in town where these could be built.

Update on Strategic Plan – This was tabled to January.

Tall Weed Ordinance - Chairman Wojnarski is in process of completing a recommendation letter to the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Seed Processing – Sunday, November 22nd, is the date for Seed Processing, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Place is yet to be determined.

Rain Barrels – Commissioner Jendreas advised that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) has a free Rain Barrell Program for residents. All the City has to do is sign a Memo of Understanding holding MWRDGC harmless. There is no cost to the

City. MWRDGC will be mailing out a contract for review. Residents will be allowed up to 4 rain barrels.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hahn moved, seconded by Commissioner Sievertson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Jendreas, Secretary

Approved by:

Agnes Wojnarski, Chairperson